

## BOOK REVIEWS

**THE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF DIARRHEAL DISEASES.** By Wm. Z. Fradkin, A.B., M.D. Published by Grune & Stratton, Inc., New York, 1947.

The author of this newly published text states that the object of this volume is to present in practical fashion our present knowledge regarding the diarrheal diseases and he feels that scientific medical progress has become so specialized that a book covering all phases of diarrheal diseases is timely and necessary. He supports his thesis by noting a startlingly high morbidity in diarrheal diseases in the United States Army and in private practice and by quoting a high average hospital mortality rate of 16.7 per cent. He further attempts to substantiate the justification for this specialized publication by recalling the public health authorities' report that approximately 13,000,000 people in the United States are infected with *E. histolytica*, and that this parasitic infection is a well recognized cause of diarrhea. The text is divided into three sections: I. General considerations, II. Specific Diarrheal Diseases and III. Diarrheas of Infants and Children.

The first section includes the anatomical, physiological, bacteriological and pathological background of diarrhea; the diagnostic procedures and the general management. This includes a rather formidable and lengthy etiological classification of diarrheal diseases, which does not give any idea of the relative incidence of the 104 causes given. The chapters on sigmoidoscopy and the practical use of the sigmoidoscopic aspirator are well presented and well illustrated, but the details of routine stool examination are almost completely neglected. The data included under blood dysentery agglutination tests is valuable. However, many physicians will disagree with the statement that these tests "should be done routinely if possible." Bacteriophage is well discussed, but receives more space than its clinical application warrants. In considering general treatment only two lines are devoted each to the use of sulfa-drugs and to the use of liver extract therapy; and the use of streptomycin is not mentioned.

Advice to avoid soups because they are "gas-producing," to sprinkle iron salt on the food, and that rectal installations are advisable in the management of diarrhea, is open to question.

In the second and largest section the chapters on protozoa and on intestinal worms are on the whole well handled and well illustrated, and will serve as a ready and practical reference to the identification and management of these parasitic infestations. In dealing with the bacterial etiology of diarrheal diseases the author has left much to be desired. Streptococcal, staphylococcal, gonococcal and luetic diarrheas hardly deserve the space devoted to them. The use of penicillin therapy is not mentioned in the management of "streptococcal diarrhea," and no evaluation of streptomycin therapy has been attempted for this group of cases. The author's wholehearted recommendation of prolonged vaccine therapy for chronic *Shigella* and *Salmonella* diarrheas amazes the reviewer of this text. Such a recommendation cannot be too strongly condemned. The chapter on idiopathic ulcerative colitis is disappointing. Three reasons for this opinion are the author's statement that surgery "is never indicated"; that pregnancy should be "interrupted in all cases"; and the fact that the possible role of allergy as a causative factor in this disease is never mentioned. In vitamin deficiency diarrheas only four lines are devoted to the treatment of sprue, and the folic acid therapy of this disorder is

not even discussed. Pancreatic diarrhea is all too briefly described. The third section dealing with childhood diarrheas is short and not unlike standard texts dealing with pediatrics.

It is the reviewer's impression that this book on the sub-specialty of diarrheal diseases is obviously not a complete scientific and encyclopedic exposé of the subject suitable for the specialist; and that it misses its mark in that it is poorly adapted for the average practitioner of medicine. Because of the complexities of certain diagnostic procedures recommended for routine studies; the lack of a nicety of balance of the material presented; the omission or lack of completeness of certain phases of diagnosis and therapy and frequent errors in sound clinical judgment, such as advising an *open drainage* type of operation for amebic liver abscess, this text in its present form is hardly a welcome addition to the already voluminous literature on specialty subjects.

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**FUNCTIONAL CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE.** By Meyer Friedman, M.D., Director, Harold Brunn Institute for Cardiovascular Research, Mt. Zion Hospital, San Francisco. Cloth. Price \$3.00. Pp. 266. Williams & Wilkins Co., Mt. Royal and Guilford Aves., Baltimore 2. 1947.

This book is a resume of the research work that the author has performed on functional diseases with special reference to cardiovascular disturbances during the war. The author has done a first class job. Most of the experiments are simple, clean-cut, and give definitive solutions to the problems investigated. Some of the experiments are beautifully conceived and conducted and may be considered the best type of clinical investigation. Dr. Friedman first points out that fever can be of psychogenic origin and can be experimentally produced in susceptible individuals. This is an observation of fundamental physiological and clinical importance. He has demonstrated that certain common cardiac arrhythmias often associated with palpitation can be experimentally reproduced in certain individuals with this disorder. He has objectively demonstrated the muscular incoordination of these people. His test for the diagnosis of functional cardiovascular disease employing hyperventilation is simple, direct, and should have wide-spread clinical usefulness. The test has the advantage of being simple enough to be an office procedure.

Although the author is inclined to believe that the disturbance results from a "cortico-hypothalamic imbalance," he has never claimed that final proof for this has been obtained. Perhaps he might be criticized for suggesting this theory too frequently and avidly, but certainly anyone who has done as much work and has advanced our knowledge of a disorder as much as he has is entitled to suggest a working hypothesis.

It is perhaps unfortunate that he has called this book "Functional Cardiovascular Disease" since approximately one-half of it concerns other systems unrelated to the cardiovascular system—for example, functional disturbances of the respiratory, gastro-intestinal, muscular, and other systems. Certainly, the disturbances which Dr. Friedman has described occur frequently in civilian life with involvement of the cardiovascular system, but similar disturbances occur in other systems. This, however, is a minor criticism and does not detract from the quality of this study. Dr. Friedman is to be commended not only upon the excellence of his investigation, but also upon the fact that this large amount of work was done by one man with limited experimental facilities. Had the author been better equipped with ex-

cellent experimental laboratories it is likely that some of the phases of his investigation might have been more thoroughly performed.

The book is beautifully written, logical, and with adequate consideration of work performed by others. It can be read with benefit by internists, psychiatrists, orthopedists, gastroenterologists, and others. It is hoped that Dr. Friedman can continue with this excellent work.

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**PSYCHOPATHOLOGY, A Survey of Modern Approaches.** By J. Ernest Nicole, O.B.E. Fourth Edition. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore. Price \$4.75.

This small volume is described by the author as a handbook "designed to provide a general survey of the views of different schools [of psychopathology] of today," and "a guide to the many modern approaches rather than a textbook of any one." Any method of investigating the psychological nature and causation of insanity is deemed worthy of consideration if it offers hope of shedding light on such problems.

Although the book is not divided into parts, its content may be grouped roughly under four headings. The first portion is devoted to a summary of the systems of Prince, Freud, Adler, Jung, Rivers, Kempf and the Behaviorists. There are frequent brief digressions to indicate how the various schools at times meet on common ground, and at others diverge. These efforts do much to diminish the feelings of perplexity and confusion engendered by such condensed reviews.

The second portion deals with contributions from the field of anatomy, physiology, endocrinology, ethnology, sociology, psychobiology and psychology. With full recognition of the extreme difficulty of correlating these data, an endeavor is made to point out the need of incorporating pertinent contributions from these disciplines, and to indicate their probable significance to psychopathology.

The third portion deals with the application of psychopathology, not only to medicine, but to law, education, industry, sociology, art and religion. It emphasizes the value of psychopathology in furthering understanding in these fields. How the premature and too facile application of the limited present-day knowledge may lead to absurdities is indicated.

The fourth and last portion deals with three topics, which the author feels deserve more detailed consideration, namely, the concept of the ego in psychiatry, the herd-instinct, and type psychology. These three chapters represent an extension of the author's earlier attempt to collate the various schools of thought under discussion, and are sufficiently stimulating to make one wish he had devoted more space to this aspect of the book. Finally, a very valuable and rather extensive bibliography, which is limited to publications available in English, is included.

The value of this compendium does not lie in the revelation of startling novelties or discoveries, but rather in a reasonably successful attempt to bring order out of a great deal of confusion. It is recommended not only to physicians, but to members of other professions in which the recognition and management of personality problems is important.

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**PRACTICAL X-RAY TREATMENT.** By Arthur W. Erskine, M.D. Third Edition, The Bruce Publishing Company. 1947.

This small manual on 155 pages, with 20 illustrations, contains much practical information on the elementary principles of x-ray treatment and especially elementary x-ray physics. For that reason it can be recommended to most medical students and all dermatologists. Owing to Doctor Erskine's eminence in the field of Radiology, it is already in the

libraries of most radiologists. The text is clear but rather cursory, especially in connection with lesions requiring high voltage irradiation. The illustrations are somewhat antiquated, notably figure 15, and should be revised in subsequent editions. Some of the paragraphs are not visibly complete, for example the fourth paragraph on page 132. The reader wonders what happened to several hundred cases of cancer of the lip!

With these minor criticisms, the book can be recommended to most physicians.

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**DERMATOLOGIC CLUES TO INTERNAL DISEASE.** By Howard T. Behrman, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology, New York University College of Medicine; Adjunct Dermatologist, Mount Sinai Hospital and Beth Israel Hospital; Associate Dermatologist, Hillside Hospital; Diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology and Syphilology; Fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and Syphilology. 1947. Grune & Stratton, Inc. Price \$5.00.

The author published this small book because he felt that there was a need for the correlation of skin manifestations with visceral disease. Accordingly, for some 165 pages he has listed various conditions alphabetically by either a cutaneous or visceral title and has added a long or short note about each. There are many illustrations which on the whole are good. There is no table of contents and no index, unfortunate omissions which would make it unsuitable as a reference book even if the subject matter were more enlightening. Inclusion of them also would make unnecessary the fairly elaborate system of cross reference which sometimes becomes ridiculous. For example, on pages 158 and 159 ten conditions are named in large type; and for seven of these there is nothing for the reader except a reference to another page; which gives one a feeling of futility. There is no constancy about the method of putting a condition into its alphabetical place. The reviewer does not know why some diseases of the pituitary gland should be described under endocrine disorders and others given another place in the alphabet: For instance, acromegaly comes under "A" and Cushing's syndrome under "C." (Could it not be classified under "B"—for basophile adenoma?) Graves' disease is hidden under the sub-classification of hyperfunction of the thyroid gland, but Addison's disease occupies a niche of its own after atherosclerosis.

The author states that he has not included any diseases adequately described in standard texts. The reviewer believes that the subject matter which is included falls into this category.

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**HYPNOTISM TODAY.** By Leslie M. Lecron, B.A., and Jean Bordeaux, B.A., M.A., Ph.D. Foreword by Milton H. Erickson, M.D. 1947. Grune & Stratton, New York. Price \$4.00.

As a source of information for physicians regarding the phenomena of the hypnotic state this book is amply justified. Written by two lay hypnotists, it presents a relatively conservative treatment of the subject, rich in personal experience and containing many useful hints as to practical procedure. From this standpoint it is of value both to the practitioner of medicine who is not infrequently asked for an opinion regarding the procedure, and to the psychiatrist who may be anxious to gain personal experience in the field.

However, the book is apparently not directed solely to the medical profession. In the hands of the layman, it is probable that too optimistic an attitude toward the therapeutic value of the procedure would be engendered, while the portion of the book dealing with auto-hypnotic technics might well be of danger to certain individuals. Equally, this reviewer must deprecate any publication which prescribes treatment of the functional nervous disorders by others than qualified doctors of medicine.